

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3445

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJ: MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FONMIN

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM CALLED ON SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 24. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS CONVERSATION: AMBASSADOR BOTHA AND, FOR SWA DISCUSSION, UN REP VON HIRSCHBERG WERE PRESENT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER BEGAN BY COMMENTING FAVORABLY ON SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH, SAYING STATEMENT ENDORSING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SELF-DETERMINATION, AND HUMAN DIGNITY IN AFRICA FITTED EXACTLY WHAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS SEEKING TO DO. DISCUSSION ENSUED ON CURRENT ATTITUDES IN U.S. TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA, WITH NEWSOM SUGGESTING THAT GREATER CONTACT IN U.S. WITH HOMELAND LEADERS, LABOR LEADERS, AND OTHER NON-WHITES WAS HELPFUL IN GIVING CLEARER PICTURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN SCENE AND REMOVING STEREOTYPES OF PAST YEARS.

3. MULLER SAID HE AGREED WITH THIS, BUT OBJECTED THAT U.S. PICTURED THESE CONTACTS AS PART OF OUTSIDE STIMULUS TO CHANGE. SOUTH AFRICA, ITSELF, WANTS CHANGE AND IS
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BRINGING CHANGE, HE SAID, AND SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS

RESENT OFFICIAL SUGGESTIONS THAT CHANGE COMES ONLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE. NEWSOM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MINISTER'S POSITION, BUT HE HOPED MINISTER REALIZED DIFFICULTY IN JUSTIFYING ANY CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO MANY GROUPS IN U.S. SUCH CONTACT COULD ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF IT WERE PICTURED AS BEING A FACTOR IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE. THIS DID NOT SUGGEST THAT CHANGE WAS NOT ALSO RESULTING FROM DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

4. MINISTER MULLER ASKED ABOUT ATTITUDES TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND NEWSOM OUTLINED SUCH ATTITUDES AMONG CHURCH, ACADEMIC, AND BLACK GROUPS. MINISTER SAID HE DID APPRECIATE THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ABSENCE OF STRONG RHETORIC DIRECTED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSISTENT OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE.

5. MINISTER TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON FACT THAT COLD WAR WAS STILL GOING ON IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHERE SOVIETS WERE ENCOURAGING COMMUNIST STATE. HE REPEATED SOUTH AFRICA'S DESIRE TO COOPERATE STRATEGICALLY WITH UNITED STATES.

6. MULLER THEN ASKED U.S. VIEWS ON DIALOGUE. NEWSOM SAID INITIATIVE AMONG AFRICANS SEEMS TO HAVE FALTERED AND VERY WORD NOW HAD UNFAVORABLE SIGNIFICANCE IN AFRICA. MULLER SAID, NEVERTHELESS, QUIET CONTACT GOING ON AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS INCREASING. NEWSOM SAID U.S. FAVORED SUCH CONTACTS, BUT PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THEM WAS BOUND TO MAKE THEM MORE DIFFICULT FOR AFRICANS. MULLER MENTIONED ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY BRITISH AND FRENCH IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND REFERRED TO \$30,000,000 SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN TO GABON RAILWAY. HE ASKED WHETHER U.S. COULD NOT SIMILARLY ENCOURAGE MOBUTU TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICA. NEWSOM REPLIED WE DOUBTED THIS COULD BE EFFECTIVE GIVEN MOBUTU'S CURRENT POLICY DIRECTIONS AND INTEREST IN AFRICAN LEADERSHIP. HE SAID U.S. HAD TRIED TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE WITH PORTUGUESE ON PART OF AFRICANS, BUT THIS HAD FOUNDERED. DIALOGUE THERE WAS PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE BECAUSE OF PRESENT CONFRONTATION.

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7. MULLER THEN TURNED TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND SAID HE WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT AFRICANS HAD REJECTED SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MANDATE. HE STRESSED SOUTH AFRICA HAD MADE MAJOR CONCESSIONS AND THAT REJECTION THESE CONCESSIONS WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR ELEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA DESIRING TO REACH ACCORD WITH AFRICAN NATIONS. HE SAID, FURTHER, AFRICANS HAD DELIBERATELY, THROUGH SWAPO,

SABOTAGED ADVISORY COUNCIL AND ELECTIONS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA WHICH HAD BEEN PART OF PACKAGE. HE SAW LITTLE THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD NOW DO BUT TO GO THEIR OWN WAY. NEWSOM SAID U.S. SHARE DESIRE FOR CONTINUATION OF MANDATE AND HE HAD PERSONALLY SPOKEN TO SECRETARY-GENERAL. NEWSOM BELIEVED SECRETARY GENERAL WANTED TO KEEP DOOR OPEN AND WOULD TRY TO FIND A WAY WHEN MATTER CAME BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE VENTURED OPINION THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SOUTH AFRICA NOT TAKE STEPS CONTRARY TO AGREEMENT WITH SYG WHICH WOULD MAKE HIS TASK MORE DIFFICULT. MULLER REPLIED THAT AIDE MEMOIRE CLEARLY SHOWED THAT NO STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN CONTRARY TO UNDERSTANDING.
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